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A NEW SPECIES OF *STEVIOPSIS* (ASTERACEAE: EUPATORIEAE) FROM NUEVO LEÓN, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Steviopsis* from Cerro Peña Nevada, Nuevo León, México belonging to the Asteraceae, tribe Eupatorieae, is described and illustrated.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Steviopsis*, México.

Routine identification of composites from northern México obtained by Dr. Guy Nesom during 1988 has revealed the following, previously uncollected, novelty. It is positioned in the genus *Steviopsis* (sensu Turner 1988) because it possesses mostly alternate leaves, 4-5 seriate, strongly graduate involucral bracts that are not readily deciduous, tubular corollas with glandular lobes, ampliate smooth style branches and glabrous achenes with 6-9 ribs, the pappus of 25 readily deciduous bristles. Nevertheless it is not especially close to any previously described species and may ultimately be recognized by some workers as a distinct genus.

Steviopsis nesomii B. Turner, *spec. nov.*, Figure 1. TYPE: México. Nuevo León: Mpio. Doctor Arroyo, ca. 35 km NE of Doctor Arroyo, N side of peak known as Picacho Onofre, just north of Cerro Peña Nevada (ca. 23° 46′ N, 99° 52′ W), area of rock outcrops along logging trail up from road at "El Puerto," 15 Oct 1988, *Guy Nesom [with David Morgan] 6782* (HOLOTYPE: TEX; Xerotype: MEXU).

Steviopsis dryophilae (B.L. Robins.) B. Turner leviter similis sed foliis infra medium plerumque alternatis manifeste petiolatis supra medium multum redactis sessilis, capitulis minoribus flosculis paucioribus, et acheniis glabris setis ca. 25 albis 4-5 mm longis.

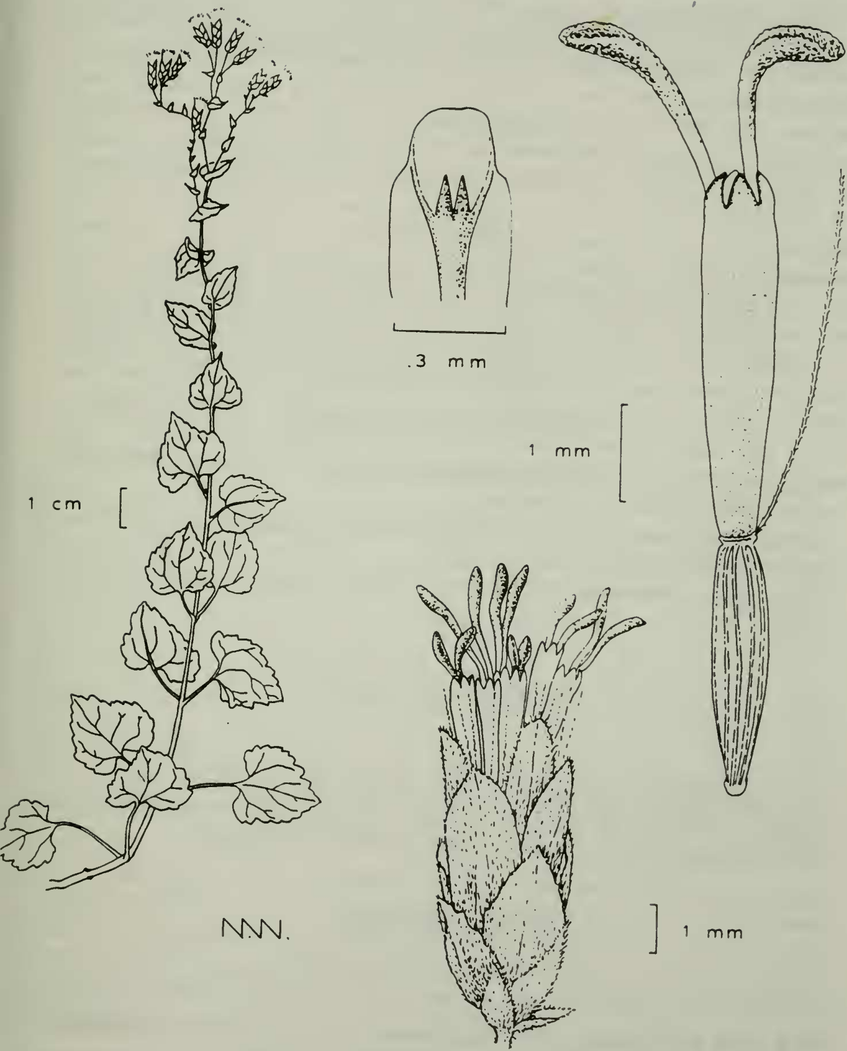

Fig. 1 Steviopsis nesomii, from holotype

Small suffruticose herb ca. 25 cm high. Stems terete, purplish, densely puberulous. Leaves mostly alternate. seemingly opposite at the lowermost nodes: petioles ca. 2 cm long at the lowermost nodes, gradually shortened upwards. the blades becoming sessile and clasping at 4-5 nodes below the capitulescence: blades cordate to subcordate, 1.5-2.0 cm long, 1.5-2.5 cm wide, 3 nervate from the base, puberulent and atomiferous glandular or glandular punctate above and below, the margins crenulodentate. Heads ca. 20, arranged in a terminal lax cyme, the ultimate peduncles 3-8 mm long. Involucres cylindroturbinate, 6-7 mm high, 2-3 mm wide, the bracts 4-5 seriate, evenly graduate, seemingly persistent, purplish and puberulent dorsally, ca. 1.5 mm wide, the apices decidedly obtuse or rounded. Receptacle plane, epaleate, glabrous. Florets ca. 6 per head, the corollas tubular, glabrous, ca. 5 mm long, greenish yellow below, purplish above, the lobes 4 or 5, ca. 0.50 mm long, ca. 0.25 mm wide, atomiferous glandular dorsally. Anther appendages rounded apically, somewhat broader than long. Stylar shafts glabrous, without basal nodes, the stylar branches with purple, clavate, smooth appendages. Achenes glabrous, ca. 2.5 mm long, the ribs 7-9, the carpopodium somewhat asymmetric, stopperlike, not grading into the ribs; pappus of ca. 25 minutely barbellate, readily deciduous white bristles 4-5 mm long.

Only a single plant on a rock outcrop in an area of oak woods was collected, in spite of efforts to find additional plants.

The species is named for its only known collector, Dr. Guy Nesom, Curator at TEX.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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